

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1        1. A node (26<sub>1</sub> or 26<sub>2</sub>) of a radio access network of a telecommunications  
2 system which prepares a message for transmission to at least one other node of the  
3 radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure (104)  
4 affecting a control node which controls connections with user equipment units (30) in a  
5 connected mode, the message including an element which collectively indicates that a  
6 subset of the connections are to be released so that the user equipment units (30)  
7 involved in the subset of the connections can return to an idle mode.

1        2. The node of claim 1, wherein the node which prepares the message is a radio  
2 network control node (26<sub>1</sub>) which controls the connections.

1        3. The node of claim 1, wherein the node performs plural processes with each of  
2 the plural processes handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user  
3 equipment units (30) in the connected mode, and wherein when the reset procedure  
4 (104) affects a specific one of the plural processes, an element corresponding to the  
5 respective one of the plural subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the  
6 plural processes is included in the message.

1        4. The node of claim 1, wherein the element comprises a group identity for the  
2 subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a group value and a group  
3 bit mask index, wherein the group bit mask index indicates bits of the group value  
4 which are common for all connections of the subset of connections; and wherein the  
5 group value is a group S-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the  
6 group S-RNTI which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

1        5. The node of claim 1, wherein the node which prepares the message is a drift  
2 radio network control node (26<sub>2</sub>) which provides radio resources for the connections  
3 handled by a serving radio network control node (26<sub>1</sub>).

1        6. The node of claim 5, wherein the element comprises a group identity for the  
2 subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a control node identifier, a  
3 group value, and a group bit mask index, wherein the group bit mask index indicates  
4 bits of the group value which are common for all connections of the subset of

5 connections; and wherein the group value is a group U-RNTI and the group bit mask  
6 index indicates the bits of the U-RNTI value which are common for all connections of  
7 the subset of connections.

1        7. A radio access network of a telecommunications system comprising:  
2            a serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>) which controls connections with user equipment  
3            units (30) in a connected mode;  
4            at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>) which provides radio resources in cells  
5            controlled by the at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>) for some of the connections  
6            handled by the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>);  
7            wherein the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>) sends a message for transmission to the at  
8            least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>) of the radio access network, the message resulting  
9            from occurrence of a reset procedure (104) affecting the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>), the  
10           message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the  
11           connections are to be released so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the  
12           subset of the connections can return to an idle mode.

1        8. The network of claim 7, wherein the at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>) is  
2           arranged, upon receipt of the message, to send a response message to the serving  
3           control node (26<sub>1</sub>).

1        9. The network of claim 7, wherein the at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>)  
2           sends a further message to a base station (28) controlled by the at least one drift control  
3           node (26<sub>2</sub>), the further message including a further element, the further element being  
4           derived from the element included in the message.

1        10. The network of claim 9, wherein the element comprises a group identity for  
2           the subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a control node  
3           identifier indicative of the serving control node, a group value, a group bit mask index,  
4           and wherein the group bit mask index indicates bits of the group value which are  
5           common for all connections of the subset of connections; and wherein the group value  
6           is a group U-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the U-RNTI value  
7           which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

1        11. A method of operating a node (26<sub>1</sub> or 26<sub>2</sub>) of a radio access network of a  
2 telecommunications system which prepares a message for transmission to at least one  
3 other node of the radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a  
4 reset procedure (104) affecting a control node which controls connections with user  
5 equipment units (30) in a connected mode, the method comprising including in the  
6 message an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to  
7 be released so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the subset of the  
8 connections can return to an idle mode.

1        12. The method of claim 11, further comprising using a radio network control  
2 method (26<sub>1</sub>) which controls the connections to prepare the message.

1        13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
2            performing at the node plural processes with each of the plural processes  
3 handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units  
4 (30) in the connected mode;  
5            when the reset procedure (104) affects a specific one of the plural processes,  
6 including in the message an element corresponding to the respective one of the plural  
7 subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the plural processes.

1        14. The method of claim 11, further comprising using a drift radio network  
2 control node (26<sub>2</sub>) which provides radio resources for the connections handled by a  
3 serving radio network control node (26<sub>1</sub>) to prepare the message.

1        15. A method of operating a radio access network of a telecommunications  
2 system which includes a serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>) and at least one drift control node  
3 (26<sub>2</sub>), the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>) handling connections with user equipment units  
4 (30) in a connected mode, the at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>) providing radio  
5 resources in cells controlled by the at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>) for some of the  
6 connections handled by the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>), the method comprising:  
7            performing a reset procedure (104) at the serving control node;  
8            sending from the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>) to the at least one drift control node  
9 (26<sub>2</sub>) a message resulting from performance of the reset procedure (104), the message  
10 including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to  
11 be released; and

12        using the message so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the subset of  
13    the connections can return to an idle mode.

1        16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
2        performing at the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>) plural processes with each of the  
3        plural processes handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user  
4        equipment units (30) in the connected mode;  
5        when the reset procedure (104) affects a specific one of the plural processes,  
6        including in the message an element corresponding to the respective one of the plural  
7        subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the plural processes.

1        17. The method of claim 15, further comprising sending, from the at least one  
2        drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>), a response message to the serving control node (26<sub>1</sub>).

1        18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
2        sending from the at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>) a further message to a base  
3        station (28) controlled by the at least one drift control node (26<sub>2</sub>);  
4        including in the further message a further element, the further element being  
5        derived from the element included in the message.

1        19. A message transmitted from a node (26<sub>1</sub> or 26<sub>2</sub>) of a radio access network of  
2        a telecommunications system to at least one other node of the radio access network, the  
3        message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure (104) affecting a control node  
4        which controls connections with user equipment units (30) in a connected mode, the  
5        message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the  
6        connections are to be released so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the  
7        subset of the connections can return to an idle mode.

1        20. A control node (26<sub>1</sub> or 26<sub>2</sub>) of a radio access network of a  
2        telecommunications system which has plural processes which handle a respective one  
3        of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units (30) in a connected mode,  
4        and wherein the control node is arranged upon initiating a new connection to assign the  
5        new connection to a selected one of the plural processes and to assign to the new  
6        connection a S-RNTI value from which it can be discerned that the new connection has  
7        been assigned to the selected one of the plural processes.

1        21. A control node of claim 21, wherein the control node has plural processors  
2        for respectively executing the plural processes, and wherein the control node is  
3        arranged upon initiating a new connection to assign the new connection to a selected  
4        one of the plural processors and to assign to the new connection a S-RNTI value from  
5        which it can be discerned that the new connection has been assigned to the selected one  
6        of the plural processors.

1        22. A method of operating a control node (26<sub>1</sub> or 26<sub>2</sub>) of a radio access network  
2        of a telecommunications system, the control node having plural processes which handle  
3        a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units (30) in a  
4        connected mode, the method comprising, upon initiating a new connection, the steps of:  
5                assigning the new connection to a selected one of the plural processes; and  
6                assigning to the new connection a S-RNTI-value from which it can be discerned  
7        that the new connection has been assigned to the selected one of the plural processes.

1        23. The method of claim 22, wherein the control node has plural processors for  
2        respectively performing the plural processes, and wherein the method comprises:  
3                assigning the new connection to a selected one of the plural processors; and  
4                assigning to the new connection a S-RNTI value from which it can be discerned  
5        that the new connection has been assigned to the selected one of the plural processors.